

G. R. S. IX-5]

Previous references.

Pol 205-15(1-12)

1916-17

(Police)

Later references.

Police 99-13(1-3)

File No. 180-16

Serial Nos. 164

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Serial Nos. 164

Part B for June 1917

SUBJECT.

Control and reformation  
of Criminal tribes in  
India.

4) To the F.A. Resident  
in Mysore  
Pol 1259 of 27.6.17

Forwards copy of Serial 3  
and states that the Darbar  
agree in the main with the views  
expressed therein.

W D 88-GPB-50,000-24-7-16

Md Ashur Rahman  
14.8.17 Uthar

G. R. S. IX-5]

Previous references.

Pol 205-15(1-12)

1916-17

(Police)

Later references.

Police 99-19(1-3)

P 22

File No. 180-16

Serial Nos. 1 to 4

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

---

Serial Nos. 1 to 4

Part B for June 1917

---

SUBJECT.

Control and reformation  
of Criminal Tribes in  
India.

---

4) To the F.A. Resident  
in Mysore  
Pol 1259 of 27.6.17  
Forwards copy of Serial 3  
and states that the Durbar  
agree in the main with the views  
expressed therein.

W D 88-GPB-50,000-24-7-16

Md Akbar Rahman  
14.8.17 Uthar

1916-17

## GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

( Police )

## NOTES.

File No. 180-16

## FILE HEADING.

*Control and reformation of criminal tribes  
in India.*

From

*The F. A. Resident.*

No. 3833

Dated 15.5.17

Received 16.5.17

Diary No. J2486

Enclos. 2 Spare Copies.

Serial No. 1

## BRIEF ABSTRACT OF LETTER.

*Forward copy of Govt. of India letter no. 9807 244  
on the above subject and call for the views of the Resident  
if possible before the 20th June 1917.*

## NOTES AND ORDERS.

*Subd. with a draft to the I. G. P.*

*15.5.  
15.5.17  
CH  
16/5/17*

*2) Inue last  
16/5*

General and Revenue  
Secretariat.

Police File No. 180 of 1916/7

Serial  
No.

2

To The D. G. P. Police. no. J4085 of 16.5.17

Calls for his views in the  
matter before the 15<sup>th</sup> June 1917.3) No reply has been received  
till now (3.15 p.m.). Subd. with a Draft Reminder.

R.H.

15.6.17

N.H.

4) Done  
8/15/6

Reminder issued to The D. G. P. no. 4760 of 16.6.17

5) No reply has yet been received.  
A reply to the Residency has yet to be  
to be sent before the 20<sup>th</sup> instant i.e. the  
day after tomorrow. Subd. for orders.

R.H.

18.6.17.

6) Done reminder today again  
8/18/6

A

R.H.  
18.6.17

7) Draft subd.

8) Done at once by special order  
8/19/6

Second reminder issued. no. J4772 of 18.6.17.

3

From The D. G. P. no. 4112 of 18.6.17  
561Furnishes his views in the  
matter.R.H.  
21.6.179) Subd. with a draft to the Residency.  
Lajo file 10 of 1916 re Criminal Tribes  
Regulation is here for reference.R.H.  
21/6

G. R. S. III-2]

General and Revenue  
Secretariat.

Police File No. 180 of 1916-17

(3

Serial  
No.

10) There are 5 points<sup>noted</sup> for consideration in the printed letter of the Govt. of India. So far as this State is concerned, we have a Regulation which is based entirely on the British Indian Act, and it cannot be contended that there would be an influx of criminal tribes into the State from the neighbouring British Indian Provinces. Rules under the Regulation have been recently submitted by the S.G., and will be passed very early after sanctioning.

11) As regards the first point raised in the letter, viz. whether the Govt. would avail themselves of their power to transfer tribes from the State, it may be noted that the Mysore Criminal Tribes Regulation makes a specific departure in this respect from the British Indian Act. As observed by the Govt. of India, it is "doubtful whether S 19 of the Act can be taken to authorise the transfer of whole tribes from one territory in British India to another. In any case there is no power under the Act to transfer criminal tribes to or from a Native State." Though strictly speaking the Durbar have no power to transfer a criminal tribe from their State to British India, this requires the agreement of both the State and British

G. R. S. III-2]

General and Revenue  
Secretariat.

Police File No. 180 of 1916-17

(4)

Serial  
No.

Government. But we have taken power under S. 19 20 of the Regulation to exclude the "undesirables" and to send them out if necessary. The object of these sections was to exclude completely the criminal tribes of British India from the State. A transfer of criminal tribes to British India becomes ~~un~~for the purpose of reclamation becomes unnecessary in view of the fact that the criminal tribes in our State are not many, and the few that exist have ample opportunities of finding employment in the State itself. It may therefore be specifically stated, if approved, that no power is needed to transfer our tribes to British India or any other State.

(12) The next point which the members of the Durbar are required to consider is whether there are fields of employment for criminal tribes from elsewhere, and if so, on what terms they would be received. There does not appear to be any scope for employment of foreign criminal tribes here. Our fields of employment are limited and <sup>there is</sup> no scope for foreign criminal tribes here.

(13) The ~~3rd~~ <sup>4th</sup> point <sup>are</sup> to be considered how far the other points ~~are~~ defects noted in the memorandum find illustration here, and

General and Revenue  
Secretariat.

Police File No. 180 of 1916-17

Serial  
No.

and whether there are <sup>still</sup> any defects not mentioned in the memorandum of the Board which require to be remedied. As the Regulation here has not yet been fully ~~worked~~ brought into working operation, it may be premature to offer any opinion on other matters without actual experience.

(14) The last point raised is about the desirability of having a conference of representatives of all provinces and Native States to discuss the subject. On principle there can be no objection to a conference being held. It will be of great help in the administration of the Act.

(15) If approved, a draft reply on these lines will be submitted. An alternative draft forwarding approving letter & a copy of the letter with approval is also submitted.

Es  
2/6

Extraordinary }  
Member } Draft approved  
by the Extraordinary Member  
25. 6. 17

All over 10

Done by 12 km  
Es  
2/6

(6

G. R. S. III-2]

| General and Revenue<br>Secretariat. | File No. of 191 .                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Serial<br>No.<br>4                  | <p>Pol 1289 dated 27-6-17</p> <p>To. The. F.A. Resident.</p> <p>Forwards copy of Serial 3 and states<br/>that the Durbar agree in the main with the<br/>views expressed therein.</p> |

REF. 2  
MAY 1917

No. 3833

DIARY No. 2485

|                        |
|------------------------|
| 19/6/17                |
| SECTION <i>Police</i>  |
| FILE No. <i>101-16</i> |
| SERIAL No. <i>1</i>    |

FROM

MAJOR T. H. ST. GEORGE TUCKER,  
FIRST ASSISTANT TO THE RESIDENT IN MYSORE.

To

The Secretary to the Government of  
His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore,  
General Department.

Dated Bangalore, 15<sup>th</sup> May 1917.

SIR,

I am directed to forward a copy of a letter, with enclosures, from the Government of India, No. 98, dated the 2nd April 1917, on the question of the control and reformation of criminal tribes in India.

I am to request that the Resident may be favoured with the views of the Durbar on the subject before, if possible, the 20th June 1917.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

*T. H. St. George Tucker*

First Assistant Resident.

*RM*

FROM

THE HON'BLE SIR JAMES DUBOULAY, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.,  
*Secretary to the Government of India,*

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,  
JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY,  
JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF  
BENGAL.

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
UNITED PROVINCES, POLICE DEPARTMENT.

THE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT  
OF THE PUNJAB.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF  
BURMA.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF  
BIHAR AND ORISSA.

THE HON'BLE THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF THE  
CENTRAL PROVINCES.

THE HON'BLE THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF  
ASSAM.

THE HON'BLE THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, AND  
AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL, NORTH-  
WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF COORG.

THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF DELHI.

Home Department.  
(Police.)

*Simla, the 2nd April 1917.*

SIR,

I am directed to forward a copy of a letter from Mr. Booth-Tucker, Special Commissioner of the Salvation Army in India, dated the 15th August 1916 and the attached memorandum, dealing with a proposal to call a conference of the local Governments and Native States in India to consider the question of the application of the Criminal Tribes Act, 1911, with a view to the reformation of criminal tribes in the whole of India.

2. The Government of India have considered Mr. Booth-Tucker's memorandum in the light of the information available from their records. They are aware that several of the difficulties which are referred to as impeding the control and reformation of criminal tribes already occupy the attention of local Governments. Others are perhaps not so serious as Mr. Booth-Tucker imagines. There are, however, two suggestions in particular, which in the opinion of the Government of India, it might be profitable to pursue.

3. The first is the application of the act to all provinces in which it is not already in force and where criminal tribes are consequently likely to take refuge (paragraph 4 of Mr. Booth-Tucker's letter).

While there is some evidence to show that the energetic administration of the act in one province may result in the migration of a considerable number of members of criminal tribes into adjoining territories, it is not known whether these territories do in fact become centres from which the refugees carry out raids on the country which they have left, as is suggested by Mr. Booth-Tucker. In any case the Government of India are inclined to think that these and other difficulties in the working of the act can be more satisfactorily and promptly dealt with in the first instance by conferences between the provinces or provinces and native states, immediately concerned. It appears to be the practice of local Governments and of darbars to hold such conferences as the occasion requires, and it is believed that by this means mutual understanding and co-operation have generally been secured. The Government of India, therefore, doubt whether any central action is required with a view to the adoption of the provisions of the act by any provinces or native states in whose territories they are not already in force, but I am to inquire whether the difficulty stated by Mr. Booth-Tucker has been experienced by the <sup>Madras (etc) Government</sup> ~~Central Provinces (etc.) Administration~~ in connection with any adjacent territories, and if so what solution is proposed.

Assam only.

4. The second point is the question of taking power under the act to transfer tribes between provinces or provinces and native states. It may occasionally happen that restrictive measures cannot properly be applied to a criminal tribe because no suitable employment is found for it in the province in which it exists and in that event it may be desirable to remove the tribe to a centre of employment in another province. The tea gardens in Assam, for instance, provide a promising field of labour, but (as you are aware) a recent attempt to transfer a number of tribes from a native state to Assam to work in the tea gardens came to nothing, because compulsion could not be applied under the act as it stands. The Government of India are doubtful whether section 19 of the act can be taken to authorise the transfer of whole tribes from one territory in British India to another. In any case there is no power under the act to transfer criminal tribes to or from a native state. Before proceeding further, therefore, they would be glad to (have the views of His Honour the Lieut-

( ) To Punjab enant-Governor on the subject) [be informed (a) whether <sup>the Government of Madras etc.</sup> you

[ ] To all except would avail <sup>themselves</sup> ~~itself~~ of the power to transfer tribes from <sup>their</sup> ~~its~~ territories and (b)

( ) To all except whether (like Assam) there are in <sup>Madras</sup> ~~etc~~ fields of employment for criminal tribes from elsewhere, and, if so, on what terms they would be received.]

6. I am also to request that the remaining points raised in Mr. Booth-Tucker's memorandum may be considered and that the Government of India may be favoured with [the views of <sup>His Exce'lency the Governor in Council</sup> ~~His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor (in Council)~~ ] on the following questions :—

(1) How far the other defects noticed in the memorandum find illustration in <sup>Madras</sup> ~~etc.~~

(2) Whether there are any defects which are not mentioned in the memorandum and which <sup>His Excellency the Governor in Council</sup> ~~His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor (in Council)~~ wish (es) to <sup>you</sup> bring to notice in the existing methods of dealing with criminal tribes and if so what remedies are considered necessary for their removal, and

(3) Whether, in the opinion of <sup>His Excellency the Governor in Council</sup> ~~His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor (in Council)~~ <sup>your opinion,</sup> a conference of the representatives of all provinces and native states could usefully be assembled to discuss the subject.

I am to ask for a reply to this letter if possible before the 15th July 1917.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

J. H. DuBOULAY,

*Secretary to the Government of India.*

(11)

No. 437-C., dated 15th August 1906.

From—Commissioner F. BOOTH TUCKER, Salvation Army.

To—The HONOURABLE SIR REGINALD CRADDOCK, K.C.S.I., Home Member,  
His Excellency the Viceroy's Council, Government of India Secretariat,  
Simla.

I have the honour to enclose herewith a Memo. regarding the proposal to call a Conference of the various Local Governments and Indian States on the question of the application of the Criminal Tribes Act, with a view to the reformation of the Criminal Tribes of India.

I sincerely hope that you may see your way clear towards calling such a Conference, as I feel sure that it would mark a new era in the progress of the work which has been so hopefully commenced by the Governments of Madras and the United Provinces, and encourage other Governments who are also making tentative arrangements.

*Memorandum regarding suggested Conference of the Local Governments and Native States concerning the application of the provisions of the Criminal Tribes Act to the whole of India, and the best methods of applying the same.*

1. The Criminal Tribes Act furnishes the Local Governments of British India with a splendid weapon for dealing effectively with the difficult problem of the Criminal Tribes. At the same time, it furnishes an excellent model for the Native States on which to shape their policy.

2. It will be generally admitted that until the Criminal Tribes are dealt with simultaneously by all the Local Governments and Native States, the problem will, to a large measure, remain unsolved; as the tribes will simply move from the Territories which enforce the Act, to those which fail to do so, granting the latter immunity from their operations, and utilising them as raiding centres for those Territories which apply the Act, thus rendering the provisions of the Act to a large extent nugatory. In fact, this is what has actually taken place in many parts of India.

3. While certain Local Governments have applied the provisions of the Act, and have taken full advantage of them, reaping much benefit and demonstrating that the reclamation of these tribes along the lines laid down by the Act, is perfectly feasible, several of the Local Governments have failed to do so; whilst others are, in my opinion, in great danger of following a wrong policy, which has already been proved to lead to unsatisfactory results.

4. At present there is great confusion of ideas upon the subject. This may be illustrated by the following instances:

Two Local Governments apply the Act vigorously, but between them is situated a third Local Government, which considers the Act unnecessary. The result is, that the gangs which are being followed up by the Police, take refuge in the third Territory.

In one case, a single tribe of some 400 members, broke up into gangs, and 40 of these gangs took refuge in the Territory which refused to apply the Act; while another 10 or 12 gangs resorted to a fourth territory which had failed to place the Act in operation.

Hence, those Local Governments refusing to enforce the Act, are liable to become raiding centres for those who are seeking to apply its provisions, although it is possible that they themselves may obtain the advantage of immunity from the operations of the tribe, and may therefore be able to say that these tribes do not trouble them.

5. An illustration of the wrong lines on which Local Governments, who desire to operate the Act, may work, is as follows:—

A Government appoints a junior official to take up the work. It is a good plan to have someone who can devote their whole time; but it is highly undesirable that an Official who has a little experience or knowledge of this intricate work should be in the position of confidential adviser to Government as to the policy which it should pursue under the Act. Naturally, in perfect good faith, mistakes are liable to be made. There are certain land marks of past failure, in dealing with the Criminal Tribes, which indicate the dangers to be avoided; but owing to non knowledge of these, the same mistakes are in danger of being repeated.

For instance, Criminal Tribes have frequently been brought to the gates of mills and other similar institutions, where their labour is required, without any suitable provisions being made for their permanent reformation. The result has been that, after a short interval, there has been collusion between these dangerous criminals and subordinate members of the police. Crime has gradually increased, and the tribesmen have been thrown out, and the work pronounced to be a failure.

Similarly with those who are not acquainted with the habits of these tribes, inexperience leads to their being scattered between a large number of villages, where police supervision is practically impossible; and the tribesmen are furnished with admirable raiding centres, where their operations will be undetected. Here again, immunity is given to the particular villages and neighbourhood where they reside, while they carry on their operations at a distance. Their local character is excellent, but they are none the less dangerous criminals.

Again, in some cases, they are gathered in obscure and distant localities, far from railways, with a view to being settled on the land. The particular officer, who has taken an interest in them, is removed, and his over-burdened successor is absorbed in his ordinary work and has no time to look after them. They soon relapse into crime. Some such villages have been in operation for 25 years and upwards, and are as bad to-day as they were when they were first started, although being frequently under the control of a strong and costly police guard.

The above will indicate that there are serious mistakes which may be made under the Act, and which may result in avoidable failure, after which the Local Governments are likely to report that the work has been tried, and is not a success. Such mistakes might often be avoided by calling a Conference of Local Governments and Indian States, when they would have an opportunity of finding out what others were doing and what were the best lines on which to operate.

6. Again, it is highly important that facilities should be offered for transferring these tribes from one territory to another. At present, this cannot be done, the difficulties being almost insuperable. The Act does not contemplate the necessity for this, and it may possibly be necessary to introduce some amendments, which a Conference would be able to discuss and recommend.

Some of these tribes are absolutely in danger of starving unless they rob, in the particular locality where they happen to be located, when they could be enjoying plenty and settling down as respectable and honest citizens, if they were only transferred to some place where their past was unknown, and where they were not under the control of the "Kaisers of Crime", who direct their operations and fatten on their crimes, but who, themselves, succeed in evading the operation of the law.

It seems absurd that such tribes should actually be prohibited from being removed to such centres where their labour is required, and would be well paid, and where the temptation to crime would be reduced to a minimum. The work of such transfer is undoubtedly delicate, but a Conference would lend itself to smoothing away the difficulties which exist, and would greatly facilitate such transfers being arranged with mutual concessions on each side.

7. *Finance.*--This is no longer a serious difficulty. Therefore, there seems no reason why Government should wait for the War to be over and finances to become

easier. It is extremely probable that after the War is over, it will be just as difficult as now, for certain Local Governments to provide the necessary funds; but there are frequently other sources from which this money can now be easily raised, and hence this difficulty, which has hitherto appeared insuperable may be said to no longer exist. There are certain employers of labour who are clamouring for workers and are prepared to pay them liberally. The results of the present Industrial Commission will probably be that these demands for labour will greatly increase in the near future. Hence, it is vitally important that the obstructions which now exist to the employment of these classes, should be removed with as little delay as possible. I may indicate the following sources of employment which offer liberal inducements.—

(a) The great *Mill Centres*, such as Bombay, Ahmedabad, Cawnpore, etc. There is a great demand for labour in all these centres. Wages are good, and a family can earn as much as Rs. 20 a month and upwards. Hence, there is no question here of cheap labour.

There is also the advantage that community of life, which these tribes so greatly value, will not be disturbed.

Now, to bring these Tribes to the Mill Centres, without proper and efficient control, arrangements being made for their permanent reformation and non-return to crime would be foolish in the extreme. In fact, the mills have been so often bitten, that they would probably decline to have them. If proper arrangements are made, there need be no fear in this direction. The lines laid down by the United Provinces and Madras Governments, and the Rules drawn up by them, under the Act, deal with the various dangers effectively, and would serve as a model for other Local Governments.

(b) There are the *Tea Gardens*. It is said that the inducements and wages offered by these, are sometimes not sufficient. But this difficulty could easily be dealt with by Government making it conditional that the labour supplied, should be paid at least the average rate of wages that they were in the habit of receiving in the District from which they were being transferred.

There are reputable and reliable Tea Companies, which are prepared to shoulder the whole financial burden, (1) of transferring the tribes; (2) of building them suitable lines; (3) of looking after their sanitation and medical needs, and (4) of providing for their supervision, with a view to their moral welfare and reformation.

Is Government right in rejecting these Offers? I think not.

If they had the money to do the work themselves that would be another matter; but seeing that the War has produced great stringency of public funds, I think the offers made by such Companies ought at least to be favourably considered, and not rejected without consideration.

(c) Again, the *Military* are at the moment, offering extremely liberal terms for coolie labour, which is urgently needed for Military purposes in *Mesopotamia*. It seems absurd that India, with its 300 millions of population, should fail to supply the Military Authorities in Mesopotamia, with all the labour that they require, when the latter are willing to offer from Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 a month, with rations and clothing fund. The wildest dreams of the coolie in India, in the past, have scarcely reached to such a standard.

Here, then, is a splendid outlet for the Criminal Tribes of India. They can go under Martial Law. It is true that they will not have the advantage, at present, of taking their families; but if the scheme pans out there is no reason why the latter should not follow in the near future.

The ultimate prospects of Trade in the Persian Gulf, when the War is over, may reasonably be expected to furnish an ample outlet for all the labour that can thus be sent. But even should this not be the case, when the War is over, they will return to their Homes, greatly benefitted by the experience which they have gained, by the discipline under which they have been placed, and by the money which they will, in the meanwhile, have earned for themselves and their families.

Let me illustrate. Here is a tribe of 1,000 men, women and children costing Government for their support, let us suppose, at least Rs. 500 per month, besides non-recurring expenditure of a considerable amount. The 300 male adults of this tribe could be earning for the support of their families Rs. 4,500 a month, of which they would not themselves require more than, at the most, Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500, the balance being remitted for the support of their families, and enabling them to buy land, buy bullocks, build themselves comfortable homes, and in other ways improve their position, and this, without any cost to the Local Government or the Government of India.

Before such a proposition is rejected, it seems to me that there ought at least to be a Conference, at which the whole thing shall be carefully considered; and if any amendments are required in the Criminal Tribes Act, to furnish Government with the necessary powers, those amendments can be considered and submitted to the proper authorities.

Even supposing it is granted that Basra is not a part of British India, and cannot be legislated for in India, it should surely be possible for the Military Authorities in England, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to introduce, such regulations as may be necessary for overcoming the difficulties, or for the Civil Authorities to make over, for coolie work, suitable Tribes, say, under the charge of the Salvation Army, and leave the Military to deal with them in the usual way.

8. Again, there is another danger, that political pressure will be brought to bear on Government to entrust the reformation of these tribes to Organizations, that have no previous experience in the work. This will be likely, frequently, to result in failure, and in giving a bad name to the work of reformation, and in creating the opinion that it cannot be done.

The line adopted by the Government of the United Provinces in regard to such applications was, I think, a wise one. They said that any Organization religious or secular, that could satisfy Government as to their experience and ability by having actually done the work themselves, would be subsidized by Government for the purpose, irrespective of their religious creed; but they would not entrust Government money to such Organizations for the purpose of making experiments. They must first demonstrate that they understood the work, and could do it, and then they could apply for help. The experience must be gained at their own expense. This is a point which could usefully be discussed at any Conference that might be arranged.

1/5

G. R. S. 26]

1615

Police  
File No. 180-16  
Serial No. 2

Diary No. of letter replied to .....

No. 4085 *[Signature]*

General and Revenue Secretariat

( )  
, the 191 . }

To

The I. G. of Police in Mysore

Sir,

Date of issue.....

16/5/17

Signed by.....

*[Signature: M. G. Srinivasan]*  
*[Signature]*

(to be kindly returned  
with the reply)

I am directed to forward  
herewith a copy of ~~the~~ no. 98  
dated the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1917. from the  
Govt. of India on the question of  
the control and reformation of  
criminal tribes in India, with  
a copy of its enclosure, and to  
request you to be as good as to  
forward Govt. with your views on  
the subject before the 15<sup>th</sup> June 1917.

I have &c.  
*[Signature]*  
For Secy to Govt.  
16/5/17

SUBJECT.

*[Signature]*  
16.5.17  
*[Signature]*  
16/5/17

*[Handwritten signature]*  
16/5/17

No 6112/561

OFFICE OF THE  
INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE IN MYSORE.

Dated Bangalore, 18th June 1917.

DIARY No. 92726.

Encls. 4

From

K. R. SRINIVASA IYENGAR, Esq., M.A.

Offg. Inspector-General of Police in Mysore.

|            |        |
|------------|--------|
| 12/6.12.17 |        |
| SECTION:   | Police |
| FILE       | 180-16 |
| CL         | 3      |

To

D. M. Narasinga Rao Esquire, B.A.,

Secretary to the Government of His Highness  
the Maharaja of Mysore, General Department.

Sir,

Referring to your letter No.J.4085/Police.180-16-2 dated 16-5-1917 forwarding to me for opinion copy of letter No.98 dated 2nd April 1917 from the Government of India on the question of the control and reformation of Criminal Tribes in India, I beg to state as follows:-

2. The object of the Criminal Tribes Act is not merely the prevention of offences by Criminal Tribes, but includes also their gradual reclamation from crime. In order to achieve this object, it is necessary that the Act should be adopted with such modifications as differences in local conditions may necessitate, by all Provinces and Native States in India.. Moreover, the measures taken under the Act in the several Provinces and States must proceed on parallel lines. If some Provinces adopt the Act, and other Provinces do not, or if there is difference in the working of the Act in two adjacent Provinces, one working it very vigorously and the other indifferently, the Criminal Tribes will evade the operation of the Act by concentrating in the province that has not

79 JUN 1917 WD 2328—GPB—400—2-4-17

From

*The Inspector-General of Police  
in Mysore, Bangalore.*

To

*The Secretary to the Government  
of H. H. the Maharaja of  
Mysore, General Dept.*

Dated

Despatched

No.

*18 June 17*

*6/12/561*

Enclosure *4*

Subject.

---

Regarding the control and re-formation of Criminal Tribes in India.

---

*Police  
5 p.m.*

GEN. & REV. SECRETARIAT  
III  
JUDICIAL  
19 JUN 1917

(17)

adopted the Act, or works it half-heartedly. They will continue to commit depredations in that Province, and may even make it their base for operations in that Province they left. The adoption of the Criminal Tribes Regulation in Mysore was to some extent due to the influx into the State of criminals fleeing from the adjoining British Districts to escape the operation of the Criminal Tribes Act there. So far as Mysore is concerned, all the bordering Districts belong to British India where the Criminal Tribes Act is in force.

3. Regarding the question of legislating for power to transfer Criminal Tribes from Native States to British India and vice versa, I wish to point out that the Criminal Tribes Act proceeds on the principles that every Criminal Tribe should as far as possible be restricted to its native place. The idea underlying the present proposal of Mr. Booth-Tucker does not quite harmonise with this. Moreover I am afraid that the Criminal Tribes, who like all illiterate and uneducated people, are blindly devoted to their native home, may not take kindly to such wholesale transplantation in foreign soil. Mr. Booth-Tucker's contention is that, far from their native places, the Criminal Tribes will be free from the influence of the "Kaisers of crime", and that amid new surroundings and neighbours who are ignorant of their past history, they will be able to turn into honest citizens earlier. As regards the first argument, I do not think that the Criminality of these tribes is due, to any appreciable extent, to the influence of receivers. It is due to the fact that they have inherited crime as a hereditary occupation, and that it is very attractive to them as not involving any earnest or patient endeavour. The second argument also is not of much force, as the special measure for reforming them, the necessity for which Mr. Booth-Tucker very forcibly points out, will only proclaim the history and tendencies of the tribes too well, and their new

neighbours will only fear them the more for their ignorance of the actual facts. Apart from these considerations, I may point out that at the last conference of the representatives of Bombay, Madras, Hyderabad and Mysore held at Ooty last year it was decided that each Province should accept the responsibility for all tribes belonging to it. In other words, Criminal Tribes belonging to one Province must be dealt with by that Province and if any members thereof are found elsewhere they should be sent back to their original place. This is a very satisfactory principle. So far as Mysore is concerned, there is ample scope for engaging the energies of our Criminal Tribes, whether in plantations, or mills or agriculture. There is no need to send our tribes elsewhere and I would strongly deprecate the admission of foreign Criminal Tribes into the State on any pretext whatever. .

4. . These are the two most important points raised by Mr. Booth-Tucker. The remaining points relate to details of working, such as that the work should be entrusted to a competent officer, or agency and I think it unnecessary to dwell on them.

5. I should like to refer to another aspect of the question. Any scheme for reforming the criminal should not be judged from financial results. The moral improvement that may be effected in the criminals is not computable in rupees. Neither must we expect any rapid progress in the work of reformation. The present generation of criminals, those who have passed their adolescence, will take a long time to forget their criminal habits, and in some cases total reclamation may not be possible at all. In such cases, we shall have to be content with keeping them out of temptation. Our hopes

(19)

are in the young members of the tribes, and by sustained and painstaking efforts, we may be able to wean them from their hereditary habits and divert them into peaceful and honest walks of life.

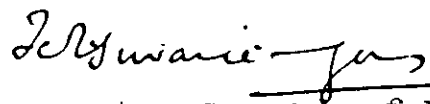
6. A Conference of representatives of all Provinces and Native States in India will, no doubt, be very helpful in furthering the scheme both by diffusing correct information on the subject and by the gradual standardization of the measures to be adopted.

7. As desired by you, I return herewith the enclosures to your letter under reply.

I have the honor to be,

sir,

Your most obedient servant,



Offg. Inspector General of Police.

SUBJECT *Control & reformation law of criminal tribes in India*

Diary No. of letter replied to .....

Section *Police*

File No. *180-16*

Serial No. *4*

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT

( )  
the 191

No. *Pol. 1289/100*

Date of issue *27<sup>th</sup> June 1917*

To .

*The 7-A. Resident*

Signed by *S. M. Narasingh Rao*

Sir,

With reference to your  
office letter no. 3833 dated the  
15<sup>th</sup> May 1917 on the question of  
the control & reformation of  
criminal tribes in India I  
am directed to forward herewith  
a copy of letter no. *6112/561* dated the  
18<sup>th</sup> June 1917 from the D. G. of  
Police in Mysore and to state  
in the main the  
The Ambar agree with the  
over.

*1/12/17*

22)

expressed therein.

I have etc.

*Done*  
25.6.17.

*Info* For Secretary to Govt  
G.L. Dept.

*PH.*  
25.6.17  
*ed*

List of enclosures.

*one*  
22.6.17

Copied by

Examined by